

Amendments to the Specification

The paragraph starting on page 13, line 10 and ending on page 13, line 26:

Referring now to Fig. 2, there is shown a compensating layer 4, which is constructed as a composite material comprising an insulating mat 6 and a swelling mat 5. The composite can preferably be wound at least once around the honeycomb element 2 in the circumferential direction. In a non-illustrated alternative embodiment, the compensating layer 4, again ~~designed~~ constructed as a composite material, is assembled from prefabricated cylindrical (Fig. 4) or oval segments (Fig. 5), or segments that can be matched to some other contour of the casing 3, in particular segments in the form of half shells (Fig. 4). The insulating mat 6 has an inner region 8 and a border 7. If the insulating mat 6, that is to say the thermally insulating layer, is composed of long ceramic fibers 10, at least in the thicker region of its border 7, it is not very susceptible to abrasion by pulsating exhaust gases and the protection provided by the thicker region of the border 7 for the border regions 9 of the swelling mat 5 which are at risk from abrasion is adequate.

The paragraph starting on page 14, line 2 and ending on page 4, line :

Fig. 4 3 illustrates a composite formed of the mats 8 6 and 5
AB wrapped around a honeycomb body 2. The section of Fig. 3 may
be taken along the line III in Fig. 1.
